

A Sad 'Mother o' Mine' Back from Red China

HONG KONG, Nov. 19 (UPI).—The gray-haired woman walked unsteadily through the crowded lobby of Hong Kong's President Hotel.

Her eyes were rimmed in red from crying. She held onto a handsome young man's arm for support.

"That's Mrs. Downey, isn't it?" asked a man sitting in the lobby bar with several companions.

"Yes," someone replied. "She has just come back from China."

"She seems pretty broken up," remarked another of the men, a Britisher. "It must be a terrible experience for a mother, seeing your son in prison in a distant land and not knowing if you will ever see him again."

RECITES POEM

"It reminds me of the old Kipling poem," he added after a moment's reflection. "I wonder if her son knows it?"

"What poem is that?" someone asked.

"Mother O'Mine," he replied. "I'm not sure if I remember it:

"If I were hanged on the highest hill,

"I know whose love would follow me still.

"Mother O'Mine. Mother O'Mine.

"If I were drowned in the deepest sea,

"I know whose love would come down to me."



MRS. MARY DOWNEY
Made 4th Visit to Son

"Mother O'Mine. Mother O'Mine."

The mother of whom they spoke was Mrs. Mary Downey, a New Britain, Conn., school-teacher.

Mrs. Downey and her son, William, returned Wednesday from a visit with another son, John, who is serving a life sentence in a Peking prison as a spy for the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency.

CAN'T TALK

They left here today for Tokyo en route back home.

When Mrs. Downey and William crossed the border from Red China into Hong Kong Wednesday, she was too upset to talk with reporters.

It was the fourth time she has visited John, who was captured by the Red Chinese in 1951 when a plane in which he was a passenger disappeared while on a flight from Korea to Japan. He was a U.S. Department of the Army civilian at the time.

He was tried along with another Army civilian employe, Richard G. Fecteau, of Lynn, Mass., and sentenced 10 years ago this month to life imprisonment. Mr. Fecteau got a 20-year sentence.

During their visit, Mrs. Downey and William met with John eight times for two hours each time.

He said he found his brother in apparent good health and good spirits.

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